



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Wisconsin schools to host teachers from Japan

*Visit contributes to Wisconsin's international education and global literacy efforts*

MADISON—School districts in both rural and urban communities will open their classrooms to 11 visiting teachers from Japan, who will introduce the language, cultural heritage, educational practices, and people of their homeland to Wisconsin students.

“All students need to understand other languages and cultures,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “This ongoing exchange program between Wisconsin and Japan offers our children a valuable international education experience within their local schools and communities.”

This year’s delegation of teachers arrived in Wisconsin on Sept. 18 and will stay until Dec. 7. Following program orientation in Madison, guest teachers will spend four weeks in each of two host school districts. They will live with host families, participate in community events, and engage in teaching and learning activities within local schools. In addition, the teachers will observe Wisconsin’s educational practices, experience local customs, and improve their language and intercultural skills. The exchange program is intended to give visiting teachers from Japan, their host families, and the host school administrators, staff, and students an opportunity to make personal connections with someone from another country. This shared experience goes beyond encountering new facts, customs, and beliefs. It builds relationships, broadens perspectives, and fosters global citizenship.

“I want to commend the host school districts for bringing this valuable international education experience to their communities,” Burmaster said. “Giving students personal access to other languages and cultures is critical in today’s interconnected and interdependent world.”

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction collaborates with the Wisconsin Education Association Council’s Professional Development Academy to host the Japan – Wisconsin Education Connection, now in its 12th year. Wisconsin schools have hosted 158 teachers through this program since 1997.

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**NOTE:** A table listing the October and November school district placements for each teacher from Japan follows. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_149.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_149.pdf).

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# 2008

## Japan Wisconsin Education Connection

*Guest Teachers and Host School Communities*

October School Community	Visiting Elementary School Teacher	November School Community
Rib Lake School District	<b>Ms. Kiyomi Kikuyama</b> (Social Studies, other)	Deerfield Community School District
New Glarus School District	<b>Ms. Yoshiko Iwata</b> (Social Studies, Music)	Wisconsin Dells School District
Rosendale-Brandon School District	<b>Mr. Shinya Taniguchi</b> (Physical Education)	Wisconsin Dells School District
Marshfield School District	<b>Ms. Yuri Kiyokawa</b> (Special Education, Japanese)	Baraboo School District
Albany School District	<b>Ms. Nami Kadota</b> (Math, English)	Eau Claire Area School District
Woodruff J1 School District	<b>Mr. Masao Tokui</b> (Art, Physical Education)	Eau Claire Area School District
Salem School District	<b>Mr. Jun Hashiguchi</b> (Physical Education)	Milwaukee Public Schools Alexander Mitchell
Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau School District	<b>Ms. Mari Mugita</b> (Japanese)	Madison Country Day School
	Visiting Middle School Teacher	
Chippewa Falls Area School District	<b>Mr. Takeshi Yamazaki</b> (Sciences)	Milwaukee Public Schools Wedgewood Park International School
	Visiting High School Teacher	
Reedsville School District	<b>Mr. Takashi Takeda</b> (English)	Milwaukee Public Schools Milwaukee School of Languages
Osseo-Fairchild School District	<b>Ms. Akane Yamada</b> (Home Economics, Special Education)	Beloit School District